

# Bluffton Today

FREE

BLUFFTON'S ONLY DAILY HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2007 • blufftontoday.com

## VOLUNTEER

# WORKING FULL TIME

Supposedly, Bill Rasmussen is retired. But you wouldn't know that from his volunteering schedule, which looks more like a couple of full-time jobs — and then some. **Page 21**



## BLUFFTON NEWS

# Digging up the past

Members of St. John Baptist Church and residents of Colleton River Plantation clean up and investigate a historic black graveyard.

**Page 3**

Volume 2, Number 289 • **COMING TOMORROW:** The Sun City Community Theatre stages a screwball comedy in Bluffton.



Kim Rowland/Bluffton Today

Bee balloons decorated the tables of each spelling bee team Friday at The Beach Club in Shipyard Plantation.

## QUOTE LIKE A BUTTERFLY

At the end, all but one team got hung up on “feng shui,” a Chinese term, in an adult spelling bee Friday on Hilton Head Island.

# SPELL LIKE A BEE

Pages 16-17

## NEWS

# School board sets 2007 goals

BY SARA WRIGHT  
BLUFFTON TODAY

The Beaufort County school board needs to fight for changes in a state tax law that threatens school funding, members agreed Saturday.

The goal was one of five set in the final day of the board's annual planning retreat.

Board members worked together efficiently and wrapped up 90 minutes ahead of schedule at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bluffton.

It will take just that kind of unity to fight to ensure that the new state measure swapping property taxes for sales tax funding does not cripple the school district, Superintendent Phillip McDaniel said.

Beaufort County is considered among the wealthiest in the state due to its high property values. The state funnels the lion's share of education funding per student through a 1977 Education Finance Act that penalizes districts with high property values. Therefore Beaufort County — more than any other county in the state

SEE 'SCHOOLS' ON PAGE 16



# Of computers, CAPs and cadets

Bob Rasmussen stays plenty busy volunteering around the community.

BY ROB DEWIG  
BLUFFTON TODAY

Retirement, by definition, does not suit Bob Rasmussen.

It's not that the former IBM executive isn't enjoying it, per se. It's just that he's not exactly doing it.

"What he's doing now is very time-consuming," says Bill Schult, who nominated Rasmussen for this week's volunteer profile. "He's really got two full-time jobs here in Sun City."

Three, actually, if you count his work with the Lowcountry's Civil Air Patrol.

The former New York and Connecticut resident first joined a Civil Air Patrol, or CAP, 25 years ago shortly after receiving his pilot's license. CAP, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, was founded in 1941 to assist the then-Army Air Corps.

CAPs have three objectives, Rasmussen learned.

First, assist in emergencies like finding downed planes (he's done that), disaster relief (he's done that) and coordinating airborne and ground searches for missing people (he's done that, too).

Second, help with aerospace education. (He's done that.)

Third, train "cadets" in CAP's education program for youngsters ages 12-21.

Rasmussen says the latter is his favorite; he's the local cadets' senior training officer. Helping educate kids has become his passion.

So why the cadets?

"Why would you be a Boy Scout or a Girl Scout? The top level of the (cadet) program would equate to being a little above an Eagle Scout — and I speak as an Eagle Scout,



Special to Bluffton Today

Bob Rasmussen at home in front of his computer.

so I know," he said.

Cadets act as young CAP members. At least once that Rasmussen knows of, a 16-year-old helped coordinate the rescue efforts for and ultimately find a missing person.

"That's responsibility," he said. "It grows kids up. I've been amazed at what it does to mature a 15-year-old."

Today's Lowcountry cadet class

has about 12 members. They meet Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Hilton Head Island Airport.

His other volunteer duties — what Schult calls two full-time jobs — are working with security at Sun City and basically organizing the community's computer network.

The security part is simple: He helps where needed.

As for the community's soft-

ware, he was an IBM software guru — so much for that retirement thing.

"I hate to see inefficiency," he said.

As a volunteer gate guard, part of Rasmussen's duties included writing out passes for guests and then entering all names into a computer system.

Rasmussen eliminated the double-duty, creating software

to require only one set of names. Type it in, print it out and rest assured a record is in the system as well.

"There are things computers are good at we ought to use them for, and there are things they aren't good at that people try to use them for."

It's Rasmussen's job — indeed, it's been his life — to know the difference.

## MAKE A NOMINATION

Contact Rob Dewig by phone at 815-0829 or by e-mail at robert.dewig@blufftontoday.com to submit nominations for our Volunteer of the Week page.